

U S Army Corps
of Engineers

Roswell Industrial Air Center (Former Walker AFB) Update

RESTORATION
ADVISORY BOARD

Volume 2, November 2003

Strategy for Fiscal Year 2004

The US Army Corps of Engineers (USACE) has begun a data gaps analysis for the entire Former Walker Air Force Base (WAFB) site. This report will provide cost estimates needed to justify funding for cleanup efforts, and to prioritize future actions in a strategic plan for WAFB. It will also give the regulators information they need to ensure that efforts proposed at WAFB are within their regulatory guidelines and meet the needs of the general public. This report will be done in three phases.

The first phase includes hiring a contractor that will research all data and archives for the site, and update the site ownership/operational history report for WAFB. This will include uses before, during, and after Department of Defense (DOD) ownership of the site. The contractor will prepare a chronological summary of all uses of the property, including users of the buildings or areas, number of people employed, activities conducted there and types of chemicals used.

The second phase will include identification of gaps in the available data. Phase two will include evaluating the data, identifying sites for which immediate closure is recommended, determining sites where additional data is required for close-out and prioritizing future investigative efforts.

In the third phase the contractor will prepare a report of conclusions and recom-

mendations. This will include a plan for future efforts at WAFB.

It is important to remember that Walker Air Force Base competes with 9800 other formerly used defense sites (FUDS) for funding. The complete histories report will enable USACE to develop a cost effective plan for the closure of contaminated areas at WAFB.

In addition to the data gaps analysis, USACE plans to sample each of the existing monitoring wells on WAFB this Fall. Tests will be run for a broad spectrum of contaminants, with site specific chemical analysis added at some locations.

Data from each well will be put into a GPS database. This effort will result in a baseline for groundwater conditions at a specific time within the WAFB project area. Comparing this data to past sampling may identify areas that can be closed or confirm that new constituents need to be considered at specific sites.

The USACE will also conduct a site investigation of the Hospital Debris Landfill, which was investigated earlier. Because testing practices of the lab conducting the earlier study were deemed unacceptable, a new investigation is being conducted at this site. Funds are coming from a Department of Justice settlement and not from the USACE Formerly Used Defense Sites budget. The site cannot be closed out until new data is collected.

Did You Know?

Technical support for the Albuquerque Corps of Engineers originally was provided by the HTRW Design Center within the Tulsa District.

Because of realignment of Division boundaries, the Albuquerque District is now within the South Pacific Division. The Sacramento District has assumed the role of providing support for the Roswell site. Sacramento staff assisting with this project include:

Jerry Vincent, FUDS Program Manager
Eileen McBride, Environmental Design Section

Inside this issue:

Strategy for Fiscal Year 2004	1
Did You Know?	1
Glossary	2
Site Plan	2
Site History	2
Message From Co-Chairman	3
Project Highlights	3
RAB Members and Contacts	4

RAB Meeting Location

RAB Meetings are held at Room 110 of the Campus Union Building on the ENMU—Roswell Campus.

Future Meeting Dates

January 13, 2004

April 15, 2004 *

July 15, 2004 *

October 21, 2004 *

* Tentative Date

Information Repository

All studies and reports related to work being done at the former Walker Air Force Base are available for public review at:

ENMU—Roswell
Learning Resource Center
Group Study Room
52 University Blvd.
Roswell, NM 88202



GLOSSARY

DOD - U S Department of Defense

ENMU—Eastern New Mexico University

EPA - U S Environmental Protection Agency

FUDS - Formerly Used Defense Sites

GPS - Global Positioning System

HTRW - Hazardous, Toxic, and Radioactive Waste

NAPL - Non-aqueous Phase Liquid, or free product

NMED - New Mexico Environment Department

RAB - Restoration Advisory Board

RIAC - Roswell Industrial Air Center

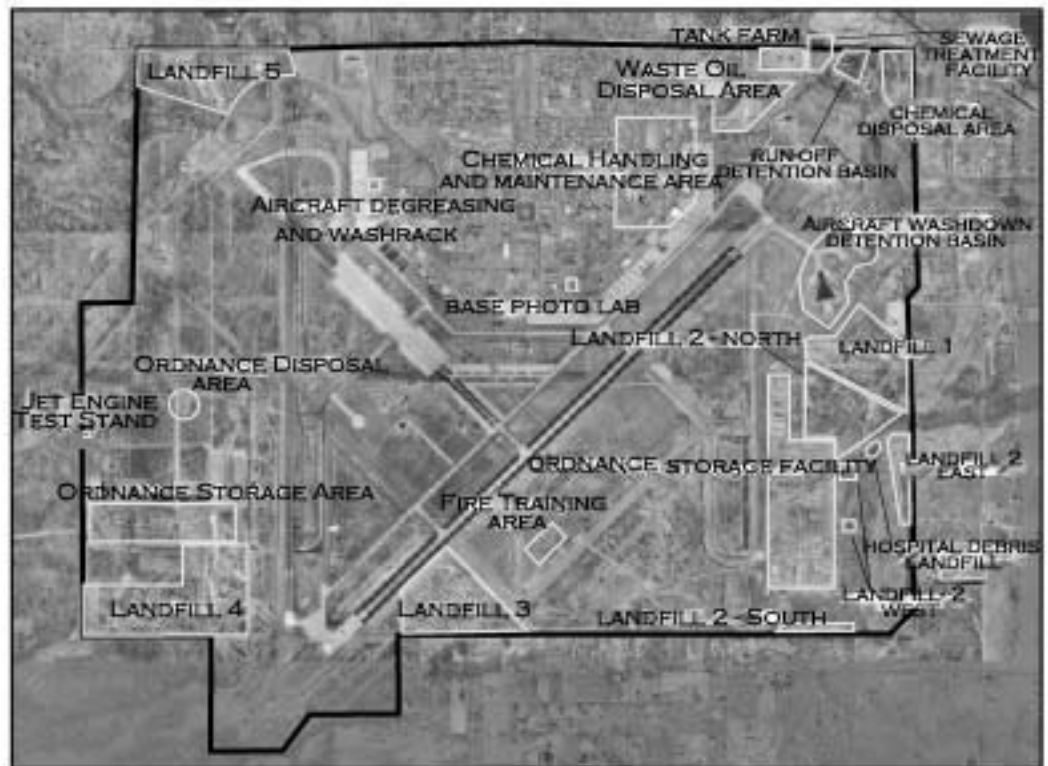
TCE - Trichloroethylene

USACE - US Army Corps of Engineers

WAFB - Walker Air Force Base

WODA - Waste Oil Disposal Area

Former Walker Air Force Base Site Plan



Site History

Land Use

The former Walker Air Force Base (5072 acres) was acquired by Department of Defense in 1942. It was used for military aviation, including a Strategic Air Command Base until de-activated in 1967.

Approximately 4710 acres were deeded to the City of Roswell and the site was re-named the Roswell Industrial Air Center (RIAC). Current land uses at RIAC include industrial, commercial and residential tenants, as well as the Roswell Municipal Airport, Eastern New Mexico University, New Mexico State Highway and Transportation Department, New Mexico National Guard, and Federal Aviation Administration.

Restoration History

In 1991, TCE was detected in groundwater at private wells in the Y-O Acres community along the eastern boundary of the former WAFB. Since that time, the U. S. Corps of Engineers has conducted numerous investigations which have included the installation of monitoring wells, as well as soil and groundwater sampling,

Investigations were completed at the Waste Oil Disposal Area (WODA). Copies of the report are under review by NMED. USACE is working with NMED to close the site.

TCE and benzene were detected in the vicinity of Building 1670, with further remediation work being planned at this time.



MESSAGE FROM RAB CO-CHAIR

The Roswell RAB has been acknowledged as one of the most successful in their efforts to work together for the common goal of restoration and cleanup of the former Walker Air Force Base. The Former Walker Air Force Base (Roswell) RAB is comprised of two general groups:

The professionally involved members of the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (USACE), New Mexico Environment Department (NMED), U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA), City of Roswell

Concerned citizens of the area who volunteer their time.

The USACE is charged with the administrative and technical responsibilities for the delineation and remediation of spills and contamination caused by the DOD at formerly used defense sites. The NMED provides State of New Mexico cooperative oversight of the project and its components. EPA provides technical support and advice. The City of Roswell contributes technical assistance, infrastructure, and oversight on behalf of the City. The citizen members of the RAB assume the role of both information providers and overseers on behalf of the citizens of the area as to progress, goals,

methods, and accomplishments.

Over the course of the past several years the citizen members of the Roswell RAB have played a significant role in offering assistance, guidance, and even technical expertise to the efforts of the USACE. One area of great assistance has been provided by members that were actually present during operations of the former Walker Air Force Base and have personal knowledge of events and conditions. Other members have acted as stewards with both general and specific questions and recommendations. Members from the community have the responsibility to question processes, methods, and conclusions; they have done so effectively and meaningfully. The Roswell RAB, in my opinion, has filled these responsibilities actively and cooperatively.

The ultimate goal of all parties involved in the Roswell RAB is to properly and efficiently protect the citizens of the area from contaminants resulting from Department of Defense activities at the former Walker Air Force Base. With the continued cooperative efforts of the members of the RAB, that goal will be attained.

Kay Havenor, Ph.D., PG
Community Co-Chair

"Over the course of the past several years, the citizen members of the Roswell RAB have played a significant role in offering assistance, guidance, and even technical expertise to the efforts of the USACE."

Project Highlights Since January 2001

TCE Plume - Quarterly monitoring of the plume continues. New monitoring wells were added in the vicinity of Hangar # 58. TCE has been detected at levels up to 620 ppb in the southeast corner of the plume. The TCE treatment system continues in operation. Its effectiveness is under evaluation.

Pump House # 7 - Three new monitoring wells were installed. There have been seven monitoring events which have detected TCE and dissolved petroleum constituents at the monitoring wells closest to the pump house. NAPL appears and disappears annually ap-

parently in relation to groundwater levels.

Soil Gas Survey - A soil gas survey was conducted near the ready alert area, north of runway 21, and in the vicinity of Hangers # 58 and # 85. The highest levels of gas were detected around Hanger # 58.

Waste Oil Disposal Area (WODA) - A site investigation was completed at the site. Fifteen soil borings were advanced to depths of twenty-five feet, and two monitoring wells were installed. Results of that investigation are under review by the regulatory agencies.

Current RAB Members

Bill Corn	Citizen
Ron Courts	City of Roswell
Eva Gomez	Citizen, Resident YO Acres
Greg Lyssy	EPA Region 6
Kay Havenor	Citizen, Geologist
David Henry	US Army Corps of Engineers
Julie Jacobs	NM Environment Department
LeRoy Lang	Citizen, NM Farm Bureau
Anita Logan	Citizen
Ethel Logan	Citizen, YO Acres
Dick Smith	Citizen
Darryl Ward	Citizen, ENMU—Roswell

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We're on the Web
http://
[www.spa.usace.army.mil/ec/](http://www.spa.usace.army.mil/ec/walker-rab/welcome.html)
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